



Austin & Anne Brizgys
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Mountain View, CA 94040
[REDACTED]

11/09/2020

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW, FORESTRY DIVISION
231 NORTH WHISMAN ROAD
POST OFFICE BOX 7540
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94039-7540

SUBJECT: Denial of Tree Removal Permit

To whom it may concern,

When our neighbor's tree crashed into the street 3 years ago, my children (ages 7, 6, and 4 years old) were thunderstruck. Literally. That tree fall sounded like the end of the world to them.

On October 18, two 40-foot branches from the Douglas fir on our front lawn, planted much too close to the house 50 years ago, spontaneously separated from the trunk, fell 20 feet, and demolished our outdoor dining area.

It was 6 am, so the kids were asleep in their bedroom, which is located 18 feet from the trunk of the tree. They awoke to a cataclysmic clamor and saw the resulting damage. The branches had missed their room by a few feet.

Now, they're terrified every time the wind picks up. Just last night they asked me, "Daddy, is the tree going to fall on our house now?"

We have no doubt that the tree poses substantial risks to property, health, and safety.

Santa Clara Valley is a completely inhospitable habitat for Douglas firs. Environmental factors that damage the health of these trees include drought and poorly drained or compacted soil. Those factors are all present currently. The last decade of drought, irrigation limitation, and historically unprecedented high temperatures has most certainly affected the health and longevity of this tree that looms 90 feet over our home.

The current climate crisis we all face assures that the failure of this tree will occur sooner rather than later. And accurately predicting where a tree will fall is impossible. Given its proximity to our home as well as my neighbors' homes, this tree, an estimated 20,000 pounds of Douglas fir wood, is going to land on someone or something.

My wife and I request an appeal hearing on the Forestry Division ruling that we are prohibited from replacing this tree with a more environmentally and public-safety-appropriate tree.

We'd like to discuss:

- Factors used to determine the health of the tree.
- Projections of the tree's longevity given the environmental conditions that exist currently.
- Factors used to determine the "historic" nature of trees in Mountain View and specifically the "historic" value of this tree.
- The impact of this decision on my family's and my neighbors' health and safety.

Thank you for providing an opportunity for dialogue.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Austin Brizgys".

[REDACTED]